

WEBSTER'S
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WEBSTER'S NEW WORLDTM COLLEGE DICTIONARY

THIRD EDITION

Victoria Neufeldt

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*Dedicated
to David B. Guralnik
lexicographical mentor and friend*

Webster's New World™ College Dictionary, Third Edition
This book was previously titled *Webster's New World Dictionary®
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Macmillan General Reference
A Simon & Schuster Macmillan Company
1633 Broadway
New York, NY 10019-6785

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*Dictionary Editorial Offices:
New World Dictionaries
850 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44114*

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Webster's New World college dictionary / Victoria Neufeldt, editor in
chief, David B. Guralnik, editor in chief emeritus. — 3rd ed.
p. cm.

"This book was previously titled: Webster's New World dictionary
of American English. Third college edition."

ISBN 0-02-860333-8 (thumb-indexed). — ISBN 0-02-860332-X (plain)

I. English language—Dictionaries. I. Neufeldt, Victoria.
II. Guralnik, David Bernard, 1920- . III. Webster's New World
dictionary of American English.

PE1628.W5633 1995
423—dc20

95-15819
CIP

ISBN 0-02-860334-6 (leatherkraft). — ISBN 0-02-860586-1 (leather)

Database service and principal typesetting by Lexi-Comp, Inc., Hudson, Ohio.
Manufactured in the United States of America

2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 96 97 98 99

Indian giver a person who gives something and then asks for it back: from the belief that North American Indians expected an equivalent in return when giving something

Indian hemp 1 a perennial American plant (*Apocynum cannabinum*) of the dogbane family, with a medicinal root and a tough bark formerly used in rope making by the Indians 2 HEMP (sense 1)

Indian licorice JEWELRY (sense 2)

Indian mallow a tall weed (*Abutilon theophrasti*) of the mallow family, with small, yellow flowers and large, heart-shaped, velvety leaves

Indian meal meal made from corn (maize); cornmeal

Indian Ocean ocean south of Asia, between Africa & Australia: 28,356,000 sq. mi. (73,441,000 sq. km)

Indian paintbrush any of a large genus (*Castilleja*) of plants of the figwort family, with brilliantly colored orange or red flowers and red or yellow upper leaves

Indian pipe a leafless, fleshy, white, saprophytic plant (*Monotropa uniflora*) of the heath family, native to the forests of the Northern Hemisphere: its unbranched, erect stalks each bear a single, nodding, white flower

Indian pudding a cornmeal pudding made with milk, molasses, etc.

Indian red 1 a yellowish-red color, orig. from an island in the Persian Gulf, used in early times as a pigment 2 an impure native iron oxide used by North American Indians as a reddish war paint, and by early American painters

Indian sign a hex or jinx: chiefly in the phr. have (or put) the Indian sign on

Indian States and Agencies [Historical] the group of partly independent states and agencies of British India

Indian summer [INDIAN, *adj.*, 2 + SUMMER²; reason for name obscure] 1 a period of mild, warm, hazy weather following the first frosts of late autumn 2 the final period, as of a person's life, regarded as tranquil, serene, etc.

Indian Territory [Historical] territory (1834-90) of the S U.S., reserved for Amerindian peoples: now a part of Oklahoma

Indian tobacco a poisonous annual plant (*Lobelia inflata*) of the bellflower family, common over the E U.S., with light-blue flowers in slender spikes, and inflated pods

Indian turnip the jack-in-the-pulpit or its root

Indian wrestling 1 a contest in which two persons grasp each other's hand, with their elbows resting on a flat surface: the one who forces the other's arm down to the surface wins 2 a contest in which two persons, each placing a foot alongside the other's corresponding foot and grasping a hand of the other, try to force each other off balance

India paper [after INDIA in generalized sense "Far East"] 1 a thin, absorbent paper made in China and Japan from vegetable fiber, used in taking proofs from engraved plates 2 a thin, strong, opaque paper used for printing Bibles, dictionaries, etc.: often called Bible paper

India (or india) rubber crude, natural rubber obtained from latex; caoutchouc — *in-'dī-ā-rub-'ber* *adj.*

Indic (in-'dīk) *adj.* [L *Indicus* < Gr *Indikos*] 1 of India; Indian 2 INDICATIVE 2 indicator

Indican (in-'dī kan) *n.* [L *indicum*, INDIGO + -AN] 1 a glucoside, C₁₅H₁₇NO₆, found in a natural state in the indigo plant: it is converted by water and oxygen into indigo 2 an indigo-forming substance, C₁₅H₁₇NO₆·OH, the potassium salt of which is present in animal urine

Indicate (in-'dī kant) *adj.* [L *indicans*] indicating; pointing out — *n.* something that indicates or points out

Indicate (in-'dī kant) *vt.* -cat'ed, -cat'ing [L *indicatus*, pp. of *indicare*, to indicate, show < *in-*, in, to + *dicare*, to point out, declare: see DICTION] 1 to direct attention to; point to or point out; show 2 to be or give a sign, token, or indication of; signify; betoken 3 to indicate illness/ 3 to show the need for; call for; make necessary [a fabric for which dry cleaning is indicated] 4 to point to as the required treatment [bed rest is indicated] 5 to express briefly or generally to indicate guidelines for action/

Indication (in-'dī kash'ən) *n.* [L *indicatio*] 1 the act of indicating something that indicates, points out, or signifies; sign 3 something that is indicated as necessary 4 the amount or degree registered by an indicator

Indicative (in-'dī kash'ən) *adj.* [Fr *indicatif* < L *indicativus*] 1 giving an indication, suggestion, or intimation; showing; signifying [a look indicative of joy]: also *in-'dī-kash'ən* (in-'dī kash'ən) 2 signifying or of the mood of a verb used to identify an act, state, or occurrence as actual, or to ask a question of fact: cf. SUBJUNCTIVE, IMPERATIVE — *n.* 1 the indicative mood 2 a verb in this mood — *in-'dī-kash'ən* *adv.*

Indicator (in-'dī kant'ər) *n.* 1 a person or thing that indicates; agent, a) any device, as a gauge, dial, register, or pointer, that measures or records and visibly indicates b) an apparatus that diagnoses the varying fluid pressure of an engine in operation 2 any of various substances used to indicate the acidity or alkalinity of a solution, the beginning or end of a chemical reaction, the presence of certain substances, etc., by changes in color 3 *Ecol.* a species of plant or animal, or a community, whose occurrence serves as evidence that certain environmental conditions exist

Indice (in-'dī sēz) *n.* *alt. pl.* of INDEX

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Indian giver / indigo

dictate: see DICTATE] to charge with the commission of a crime; esp., to make a formal accusation against on the basis of positive legal evidence: usually said of the action of a grand jury — *SYN.* ACCUSE — *in-'dī-kash'ən* *n.* — *in-'dī-kash'ən* or *in-'dī-kash'ən* *n.*

in-dict-able (-ə bəl) *adj.* [ME *enditable*] 1 that should be indicted 2 making indictment possible, as an offense

in-dic-tion (in-'dīk'shən) *n.* [ME *indictioun* < L *indictio* < pp. of *indicare*, to declare, announce < *in-*, in + *dicere*, to say, tell: see DICTION] 1 the edict of a Roman emperor, fixing the tax valuation of property for each fifteen-year period 2 the tax levied on this valuation

in-dict-ment (in-'dīk'mənt) *n.* [ME & Anglo-Fr *enditement*] 1 an indicting or being indicted 2 a charge; accusation; specif. a formal written accusation charging one or more persons with the commission of a crime, presented by a grand jury to the court when the jury has found, after examining the evidence presented, that there is a valid case

in-die (in-'dē) *adj.*, *n.*, *pl.* -dies [Slang] short for INDEPENDENT

Indies (in-'dēz) 1 [Historical] EAST INDIES 2 WEST INDIES 3 Southeast Asia & the Malay Archipelago

in-dif-fer-ence (in-'dīf'ər əns, -dīf'ər əns) *n.* [Fr < L *indifferentia*] the quality, state, or fact of being indifferent; specif., a) lack of concern, interest, or feeling; apathy b) lack of importance, meaning, or worth Also [Archaic] *in-dif-fer-ency*

in-dif-fer-ent (in-'dīf'ər ənt, -dīf'ər ənt; often, -dīf'ər ənt) *adj.* [Ofr < L *indifferens*: see IN-2 & DIFFERENT] 1 having or showing no partiality, bias, or preference; neutral 2 having or showing no interest, concern, or feeling; uninterested, apathetic, or unmoved 3 of no consequence or importance; immaterial 4 not particularly good or bad, large or small, right or wrong, etc.; fair, average, etc. 5 not really good; rather poor or bad 6 neutral in quality, as a chemical, magnet, etc.; inactive: chiefly in scientific use 7 capable of developing in various ways, as the cells of an embryo that are not yet specialized; undifferentiated — *in-dif-fer-ent-ly* *adv.*

SYN. — *indifferent* implies either apathy or neutrality, esp. with reference to choice (to remain indifferent in a dispute); *unconcerned* implies a lack of concern, solicitude, or anxiety, as because of callousness, ingenuousness, etc. *to remain unconcerned* in a time of danger; *incurious* suggests a lack of interest or curiosity (*incurious* about the details); *detached* implies an impartiality or aloofness resulting from a lack of emotional involvement in a situation (he viewed the struggle with detached interest); *disinterested* strictly implies a commendable impartiality resulting from a lack of selfish motive or desire for personal gain (a disinterested journalist), but it is now often used colloquially to mean not interested, or indifferent.

in-dif-fer-ent-ism (-iz'm) *n.* the state of being indifferent; esp., a) systematic indifference to religion b) the belief that all religions have equal validity — *in-dif-fer-ent-ist* *n.*

in-di-gence (in-'dī jəns) *n.* [Ofr < L *indigentia*] the condition of being indigent. Also *in-'dī-jen-si* — *SYN.* POVERTY

in-di-gene (in-'dī jən) *n.* [Fr *indigène* < L *indigena* < OL *indu* (L *in*), in + *gignere*, to be born: see GENUS] a native or indigenous person, animal, or plant Also *in-'dī-jen* (-jən)

in-di-ge-nous (in-'dī jə-nəs) *adj.* [LL *indigenus* < L *indigena*: see prec.] 1 existing, growing, or produced naturally in a region or country; belonging (to) as a native 2 innate; inherent; inborn — *SYN.* NATIVE — *in-di-ge-nously* *adv.* — *in-di-ge-nous-ness* *n.*

in-di-gent (in-'dī jənt) *adj.* [ME *indigent* < Ofr < L *indigens*, pp. of *indigere*, to be in need < OL *indu* (L *in*), in + *egere*, to need < IE base *eg-, lack > ON *ekla*] 1 in poverty; poor; needy; destitute 2 [Archaic] lacking; destitute (of) — *n.* an indigent person — *SYN.* POOR — *in-'dī-jen-tly* *adv.*

in-di-gested (in-'dī jes'tid, -di-) *adj.* [IN-2 + DIGEST + -ED] 1 not well considered or thought out 2 confused; chaotic 3 not digested; undigested

in-di-gest-ible (in-'dī jes'tə bəl, -di-) *adj.* [L *indigestibilis*] that cannot be digested; not easily digested — *in-di-gest-ibil-ity* *n.*

in-di-ges-tion (in-'dī jes'tshən, -di-) *n.* [Fr < LL *indigestio*] 1 an abnormality in digesting food; dyspepsia 2 the discomfort caused by this

in-di-ges-tive (-jes'tiv) *adj.* having or characterized by indigestion

in-dign (in-'dīm) *adj.* [Fr *indigne* < L *indignus* < *in-*, not + *dignus*, worthy: see DIGNITY] [Obs. or Old Poet.] 1 undeserving; unworthy 2 disgraceful

in-dig-nant (in-'dī gə'nənt) *adj.* [L *indignans*, pp. of *indignari*, to consider as unworthy or improper, be displeased at < *in-*, not + *dignari*, to deem worthy < *dignus*, worthy: see DIGNITY] feeling or expressing anger or scorn, esp. at unjust, mean, or ungrateful action or treatment — *in-dig-nant-ly* *adv.*

in-di-gna-tion (in-'dī gə'nashən) *n.* [ME *indignacion* < Ofr < L *indignatio* < pp. of *indignari*: see prec.] anger or scorn that is a reaction to injustice, ingratitude, or meanness; righteous anger — *SYN.* ANGER

in-di-g-ni-ty (in-'dī gə'nə-tē) *n.*, *pl.* -ties [L *indignitas*, unworthiness, vileness: see IN-2 & DIGNITY] 1 something that humiliates, insults, or injures the dignity or self-respect; affront 2 [Obs.] a unworthiness or disgrace b) indignation

in-di-go (in-'dī gō) *n.*, *pl.* -gos or -goes [Sp < L *indicum* < Gr *indikon* (*pharmakon*), lit., Indian (dye) < *Indikos*, Indian < *India*, INDIA] 1 a blue dye, C₁₆H₁₁N₂O₂, obtained from certain plants, esp. a plant (*Indigofera tinctoria*) native to India, or made synthetically, usually from aniline 2 any of a genus (*Indigofera*) of plants of the

at, ate, cār; ten, ève; is, ice; gō, hōrn, look, tōō; oil, out; up, fēr, a for unstressed vowels, as a in ago, u in focus; ' as in Latin (lat'n); chin; she; zh as in azure (az'hər); thin, the; y as in ring (rīn) In etymologies: * = unattested; < = derived from; > = from which

* = Americanism

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